Charles Colson swore on June 29, 1973, that Nixon had ordered him to direct the FBI to secure the apartment of Arthur Bremer, would-be assassin of Alabama Governor George Wallace, the man who posed the greatest single threat to Nixon's re-election. Colson was a witness before a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee on the intelligence affairs.

It is, of course, significant that the FBI never did perform this most basic police task, a duty required to preserve evidence and to permit the use of untainted evidence in court. The most sinister interpretations of this failure are justified.

However, assuming what it is not safe to assume, that the lawyer Colson swore truthfully, what an insight into the mind and character of Nixon, what a glimpse os his concept of the presidency!

He had to appear to himself to run everything. He had to reassure himself constantly that he was sombebody. So, especially when it was apparent that he could not cope with the country's serious problems, he meddled childishly in the affiars of a thoroughly professional police force, for all the world as though he knew what he was doing, or that he knew it was incapable of the most elemental performance without his diktat.

The role of the President in this affair he never did perform. A real president, a competent and concerned administrator, would have shaken the FBI down to find out why it had not secured the Bremer apartment and the essential evidence it held. That Nixon never did do this and that he was silent in the face of proof that the FBI had not performed its duty fuels suspcions that necessarily suggest themselves when Nixon is the one beneficiary of Bremer's attempted assassination, for Bremer did, effectivly, remove Wallace as a barrier to Nixon's re-election and in doing that assured that the estimated 10,000,000 Wallace votes had nowhere to go it not to Nixon.